

1946

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U.S.S. BOUNTIFUL (AH9)
c/o Fleet Post Office,
Seattle, Washington.

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ANNUAL SANITARY REPORT FOR 1946
HISTORICAL SECTION

BY

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The U.S.S. BOUNTIFUL (AH-9) was formerly the transport U.S.S. HENDERSON which saw service continuously from 1917, when it was first commissioned, until September 1943, when it was decommissioned. After a war time conversion job she was recommissioned the U.S.S. BOUNTIFUL (AH-9).

During the war the "Bounty" performed a noble job in caring for the wounded at such campaigns as Siapan, Guam, Palau, Kassel Passage, Leyte, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. The detailed history of these actions is recorded in the Historical Section of the Annual Sanitary Report for 1945.

January 1, 1946, found the "Bountiful" anchored in Yokosuka Bay, Japan under the command of Service Force Division 11. The duties of the "Bountiful" were to act as the only U. S. Naval Hospital in all of northern Japan. The U.S.S. SAMARITAN was anchored at Sasabo in the southern most part of Japan. Patients came from the fleet anchored in Yokosuka Bay, the fleet at Yokohama, N. O. B. Yokosuka, the Marine Corps Personnel in the Yokosuka-Tokyo area, and U. S. Merchant Marine Personnel in the Tokyo Bay area.

The commanding Officer of the U.S.S. BOUNTIFUL was Commander L. L. Young, U.S.N.R., and the Senior Medical Officer, Captain L. W. Johnson, (MC), U.S.N. These Officers had their hands full chiefly due to the demobilization program which constantly drained off experienced personnel, both Officers, and Enlisted. Of necessity only few could be replaced and usually these were relatively inexperienced. In spite of this the ship and the Medical Department continued to function in a highly efficient manner.

Upon arrival in Yokosuka on November 24, 1945, a system for handling outpatient consultations was set up under the direction of the Senior Medical Officer. Patients and their Doctors were given the benefit of hospital facilities and special consultations at practically any time of the day or night. This was greatly appreciated and was thoroughly used as can be seen in the number of outpatient consultations enumerated in the statistical section of this report. During the latter part of February and March the number dropped off, because of the decrease of personnel stationed in the area.

The general health of the personnel in the area served by us was apparently very good. No epidemics were observed. The weather in this part of Japan is cold and wet at this time of the year, and in spite of this, the incidence of respiratory diseases remained low. The general health of the crew of this vessel was likewise good.

On March 27, 1946, the "Bountiful" got underway for Kawajaline to join Joint Task Force ONE and take part in "Operation Crossroads." Two days at sea orders were changed to go to Lanilia, P. I., to act as an Army "lift" ship. Two days later orders were changed

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ANNUAL SANITARY REPORT 1946, Historical Section Cont'd.

again and on April 1, 1946, we arrived at Yokohama, Japan. Approximately One hundred and thirty nine (139) U. S. Army patients were loaded. Next we were ordered to Kobe, Japan to load more Army patients. Upon arrival April 4, 1946, we found that the channel had only recently been cleared of Japanese mines and mines dropped by our own bombers. One was sighted floating in the narrow channel as we entered. No liberty could be granted because of typhus and smallpox epidemics in Kobe and the surrounding area among the civilian population. The next day One hundred and seven (107) patients delivered to us in a very efficient manner by the Army were loaded. A few hours later the ship was underway for San Francisco.

The first day out everyone who had not had typhus vaccine or smallpox vaccination recently were given their vaccination.

About half way back a large floating mine was sighted. All hands with rifles and small arms and ammunition were invited to shoot at it. After an hour of unlucky shooting the mine was left to its own fate. Other than this the return trip to the states was relatively uneventful. We arrived at San Francisco and docked April 24, 1946. All patients and passengers were unloaded and the next day we went to the San Francisco Navy Yard, at Hunters Point.

Usual repairs and upkeep were completed after about five weeks. Our Commanding Officer Commander L. L. Young, U.S.N.R., was detached and replaced by Captain D. M. Mackey, U.S.N. About seventy five percent (75%) of the Enlisted Men, and fifty percent (50%) of the Officers were replaced.

We sailed for Bikini Atoll and "Operation Crossroads" May 29, 1946. During the voyage an intensive training program was carried out for the benefit of all hands in the Medical Department. After a three day stop over at Pearl Harbor the ship arrived at Bikini Atoll June 18, 1946, and joined Joint Task Force ONE.

Our duties were similar to those while anchored at Yokosuka, Japan. The health of the personnel in the group serviced by the "Bountiful" was very good. About the only thing seen were injuries and acute illnesses. There were relatively few of these. The general health of the crew was excellent.

The duties of the U.S.S. BOUNTIFUL were completed shortly after the second bomb explosion on July 25, 1946, and she was ordered to Pearl Harbor July 27, 1946, with One hundred and thirteen (113) patients for evacuation and sixteen (16) passengers.

The voyage to Pearl Harbor was uneventful, and we arrived August 4, 1946. The morning of the 6th Two hundred and fifteen passengers were loaded, most of whom were male civilians, and that afternoon the ship got underway for San Francisco. About two days at sea we were ordered to change course and report to Seattle, Washington for disposal.